

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a network remotely, the method comprising:

configuring a first control unit, inside a first firewall, the first control unit separate from the first firewall and used to control the network, configuring of the first control unit including: quervying a proxy server outside the first firewall from the first control unit to obtain a proxy server IP address,

receiving proxy server identification information with respect to the proxy server outside the first firewall, the proxy server identification information including the proxy server IP address,

generating an access key in the first control unit, and sending the access key and first control unit identification information to the proxy server;

configuring [[a]] the proxy server outside the first firewall, configuring of the proxy server including:

receiving the first control unit identification information, storing the first control unit identification information in the proxy server, adding the first control unit as a first remote device, and exchanging a validation message between the first control unit and the proxy server,

establishing a session between the first control unit and the proxy server, ~~wherein~~ establishing the session is executed using an by use of the access key; and

establishing a connection between the proxy server and a console, to permit remote user management of the network by communication between the first control unit and the console via the proxy server.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring a second control unit inside a second firewall, the proxy server being outside the second firewall.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the proxy server identification information includes receiving a proxy server host name, ~~a proxy server IP address~~, and a proxy server port number.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a session between the first control unit and the proxy server includes coupling through a second firewall, the proxy server being inside the second firewall.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising connecting between the proxy server and a console, the console being inside the second firewall, the connecting using an IP address facing inside the second firewall.
9. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:
  - a first enterprise network;
  - a first firewall;
  - a first control unit communicatively coupled to the first enterprise network to manage the first enterprise network, the first control unit being separate from the first firewall;
  - ~~a first firewall coupled to the first control unit, the first firewall and the first control unit being separate, and the first control unit to manage the first enterprise network;~~
  - a public network; and

a proxy server located outside the first fire wall and implemented within a De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) between the first enterprise network and the public network,  
the first control unit being configured ~~with proxy server information, to:~~  
querying the proxy server to obtain a proxy server IP address;  
receive proxy server identification information with respect to the proxy server,  
the proxy server identification information including the proxy server IP address;  
generate an access key; and  
send the access key and first control unit identification information to the proxy  
server,  
the proxy server being configured ~~with first control unit information, the first control unit being~~  
~~further configured to send a first access key to the proxy server, to:~~  
receive the first control unit identification information;  
store the first control unit identification information;  
add the first control unit as a first remote device; and  
exchange a validation message between the first control unit and the proxy server,  
the first control unit and the proxy server configured to establish a communication session based on the first access key, the proxy server to aggregate and store performance data provided by the first control unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The communications system of claim 9, wherein receiving the proxy server information includes a proxy server host name, ~~a proxy server IP address,~~ and a proxy server port number.

11. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 9, further comprising:  
a second firewall communicatively coupled to the public network;  
a second control unit communicatively coupled to the second firewall; and  
a second enterprise network communicatively coupled to the second control unit, the second control unit being configured with proxy server information, the proxy server being configured with second control unit information, the second control unit being further configured

to send a second access key to the proxy server, the second control unit and the proxy server configured to establish a communication session based on the second access key.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:

a first console residing within an unprotected public network and configured to generate at least one console request message, the console request message including at least one of a request for network management data, a request for Internet Protocol (IP)-Private Branch Exchange (PBX), or a request for status information;

a first firewall communicatively coupled to the proxy server;

a first control unit to control a protected network, the first control unit residing within the protected network and being communicatively coupled to the first firewall; and

a proxy server communicatively coupled to the first console, the proxy server configured to establish a connection with the first control unit by sending proxy server identification information including a proxy server IP address to the first control unit, receive from the first control unit control unit identification information and an access key generated by the first control unit, adding the first control unit as a first remote device, and exchange a validation message with the first control unit, the proxy server further being configured to pool the at least one console request message, [[and]] to provide access from at least one the first console to the first control unit and to aggregate and store performance data provided by the first control unit, the proxy server being implemented within a De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) between a protected network and the unprotected public network[[:]]

a first firewall coupled to the proxy server; and

a first control unit to control the protected network, the first control unit residing within the protected network and coupled to the first firewall;

the first control unit configured to receive the at least one request from the proxy server, the first control unit further configured and to output at least one response corresponding to the at least one request to the proxy server, the proxy server configured to output the at least one response to the first console.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, further comprising a second console communicatively coupled to the proxy server, the second console configured to generate at least one other request, the proxy server configured to pool the at least one other request.
18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, further comprising:  
a second firewall communicatively coupled to the proxy server; and  
a second control unit, the second control unit communicatively coupled to the second firewall, the second control unit configured to receive the at least one request from the proxy server, the second control unit further configured to output at least one response corresponding to the at least one request to the proxy server, the proxy server configured to output the at least one response to the first console.
19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server includes:  
a client request handler for receiving a client request from the first console;  
a shared request object pool communicatively coupled to the client request handler, the shared request object pool configured to store the at least one request; and  
a server request handler communicatively coupled to the shared request object pool, the server request handler configured to read the at least one request from the shared request object pool, the server request handler configured to send the at least one request to the first control unit, the server request handler configured to receive the at least one response, the server request handler configured to output the at least one response to the first console.

20. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the proxy server includes processor-executable code, the code performing the steps of:

- receiving a client request from the first console;
- writing the at least one request;
- reading the at least one request;
- sending the at least one request to the first control unit;
- receiving the at least one response; and
- outputting the at least one response to the first console.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)